

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 17, and 25-26 are now pending in the application. Claims 3-5 and 17 are amended herein. Claims 1-2, 6-16, and 18-24 are cancelled herein. Claims 25-26 are added herein. Support for the amendments and additions can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

NEW CLAIMS

New independent claims 25-26 are added herein.

Claim 25 calls for a liquid drop discharge device including "...a plurality of discharge heads supported above the substrate, each of the discharge heads having a nozzle and selectively discharging liquid drops through the nozzle to the substrate..." Claim 25 further calls for "...a plurality of laser devices each supported proximate one of the discharge heads, each of the laser devices having a plurality of lenses surrounding the nozzle of one of the discharge heads..." Applicants submit that the Renn et al. reference cited in the Office Action does not disclose this subject matter. For example, Renn et al. discloses only a single nebulizer 54 (see, e.g., Figure 4 of the Renn et al. reference).

Additionally, claim 25 calls for "...each of the laser devices emitting a plurality of light beams surrounding the predetermined trajectory of liquid drops from one of the discharge heads, the light beams providing light energy to the liquid drops when the liquid drops divert from the predetermined trajectories." In contrast, Renn et al.

discloses a method and apparatus for transporting non-atomic size particles through an optical fiber with a laser beam to a substrate (see, e.g., the Abstract section of the Renn et al. reference). For a particle to be transported with the laser beam of Renn et al., the particle is confined or trapped within the laser beam (see, e.g., the Abstract section and page 8, lines 2-5 of the Renn et al. reference). As such, Applicants submit that the laser beam of Renn et al. does not surround a trajectory of liquid drops and provide energy to the liquid drops when diverted as specifically recited in claim 25.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 25 should be patentable.

Claim 26 calls for a liquid drop discharge device in which a discharge head and head unit are on opposite sides of a stage and substrate and in which the head unit includes a laser device emitting light beams through the stage and substrate.

Applicants submit that Renn et al. does not disclose a device having the configuration specifically recited in claim 26. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 26 should be patentable.

Therefore, favorable consideration of claims 25-26 is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-11, 17, and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Renn et al. (WIPO Pat. No. WO 00/23825). Claims 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renn.

Claims 3-5 and 17 depend on claim 25 and, therefore, for at least the same reasons stated herein with respect to claim 25, should be patentable. Claims 1-2, 6-16,

and 18-24 are cancelled herein.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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